



March 29, 2024

Good Friday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Due to the solemn celebration of this week, there is no Prelude, Musical Offering, and Postlude. Only hymns are accompanied. Our worship concludes in darkness to remind us of our sin which God forgives through Jesus' death and resurrection. Today marks the second of the three holy days called the Triduum. Therefore, at the end of our worship the Benediction is omitted.

The Congregation gathers in silence.

Procession of the Cross

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

O come, let us worship Him.

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Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“The Old Rugged Cross”

- ♪ On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
~So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.
- ♪ O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. ~So I'll cherish...
- ♪ In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. ~So I'll cherish...
- ♪ To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. ~So I'll cherish....

The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn, 186 -Text & Tune: George Bennard 1873-1958; ©1913 George Bennard,
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Confession and Absolution

Lord our God, You took upon Your shoulders the weight of fallen humanity, becoming the sin offering for us so that we are made righteous in Your sight. Hear us as we bow before Your cross and lay our sins at Your feet.

A Time of Silence

Gracious Father,

Have mercy upon us. We are undeserving of Your love.

Loving Lord Jesus,

Take our sins from us. Show us the depths of Your love, found only in the cross.

Renewing Holy Spirit,

Guide us and lead us. Enable us by faith to cling to the grace that alone can save.

Amen.

Almighty God in His great mercy has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross so that we may die to sin and live in His righteousness. By His wounds, you have been healed. As a called and ordained servant of our crucified Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Words of Our Lord

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated* “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”

- ♪ O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession, What dark transgression?
- ♪ They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.
- ♪ Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.
- ♪ What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him, Who would not know Him.
- ♪ The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted; God is committed.
- ♪ There was no spot in me by sin untainted;
Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted;
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me, Such woe it wrought me.
- ♪ O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying While Thou wert dying.
- ♪ O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer? What dare I offer?

- ♪ For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder—
 Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.
 Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee! Can I requite Thee?
- ♪ Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;
 I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee
 And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly All fires unholy.
- ♪ But since my strength will nevermore suffice me
 To crucify desires that still entice me,
 To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me And reign within me!
- ♪ I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
 That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
 To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor Henceforth forever.
- ♪ Whate'er of earthly good this life may grant me,
 I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.
 I shall not fear what foes can do to harm me Nor death alarm me.
- ♪ But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it.
 Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not disown it;
 Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness Nor shame my weakness.
- ♪ And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
 To me the crown of joy at last is given,
 Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 439 -Text: Johann Heermann 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78;
 Tune: Johann Cruger 1598-1662; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

- ¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.
- ¹⁴As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
 and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
- ¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations.
 Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see,
 and that which they have not heard they understand.
- ¹Who has believed what he has heard from us?
 And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;
 he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.
- ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
 and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
 yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
- ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
 upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
- ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;
 and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he opened not his mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Verse Hymn

“Lamb of God”

♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to be called the Lamb of God.

~O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God!

♪ Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. ~O Lamb...

♪ I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. ~O Lamb....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550 -Text & Tune: Twila Paris b.1958;
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The Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Gradual Hymn

“Were You There”

♪ Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

♪ Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

- ♪ Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
- ♪ Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
 Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 456 -Text & Tune: African American Spiritual, 19th cent.;
 Setting: C. Winfred Douglas 1867-1944; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Nicene Creed

Offering

The Hymn

“Christ the Life of All the Living” vv. 1–3 & 7

- ♪ Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:
 Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- ♪ Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
 Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!
 Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- ♪ Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;
 Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
 Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- ♪ Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
 For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
 Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
 For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 420 -Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg 1605-81, tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78
 Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt 1687, setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain.*

As a reminder of our sin and the death of Jesus for us, the sanctuary lights are darkened.

Reproaches

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you?
 Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have
 delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage,
 and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

**Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal,
 leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you?
 Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to
 those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water,
 and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

Proclamation of the Word

“The Wonderful Exchange”

Isaiah 53:5

Prayer of the Church

The Crucifixion

Seven Words from the Cross

After each statement of Jesus from the cross, a candle is extinguished.

+Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

+Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.

+Woman, behold your son! Behold, your mother!

+My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

+I thirst.

+It is finished.

+Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.

-Acolyte carries out the Christ candle.

The Strepitus

The slamming of the book symbolizes the sealing of Jesus' tomb.

Lord's Prayer *The Lord's Prayer is spoken softly.*

The Benediction is omitted.

We leave in silence, pondering Christ's death to save us from eternal death!

Our worship continues on Easter Sunday!!